

DAY 6

You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. Psalm 77:14 NIV

It can be hard to remember that the God who performed all the miracles we read about in the Bible is the same God we can know personally today. But when we take a moment to realize that truth, it can help us keep the right perspective about who God is. The same God who was powerful enough to help save, rescue, and heal so many in the Bible is the same God who is powerful enough to help you deal with the obstacles that you face in your life today.

Write down some of the obstacles you may be facing in life right now. Then, write the word "POWER" over them as a reminder that God is powerful enough to help you get through what you're dealing with.

DAY 7

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18 NIV

One of the best things we can do when we're facing challenging or difficult circumstances is to call on God. While it can be easy to think that God is far or distant, verses like this remind us that God is actually closer than we realize all the time. All we have to do is call!

To help you keep this truth in mind, memorize this verse this week. Write each word on a piece of paper and then cut them out into puzzle pieces. Test your memory skills by trying to put the puzzle back together and get the verse in order, memorizing more of it each time you do!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

NEVER GIVE UP / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. John 16:33 NLT

What image comes to mind when you think about courage? The idea behind the word courage comes from the word "heart." That means when we gather the courage do something scary, that bravery comes from our hearts. When we are resilient and push forward through difficult situations, it comes from the courage Jesus has given us in our hearts. When Jesus reminds us here to "take heart," He's basically saying, "Be brave, be encouraged. I'm the One who will win when it comes down to it." Knowing Jesus is with us and will take care of everything we're facing can give us the motivation we need to keep going!

Make a list of all the areas where you could use a little courage. Then, ask Jesus to provide you with it!

DAY 2

I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! Psalm 121:1-2 NLT

Even if you've never seen a mountain in person, you know based on pictures how massive and breathtaking they are. They rise above the earth, solid and sturdy. No matter what weather or natural disasters they face, those mountains remain standing. They are great examples of resilience! And more than that, they're a reminder of the God who made them (and us!) to be resilient. God made the mountains, the sky they reach up to, and the ground they stand on. God created those mountains to stand strong through whatever comes their way, and God can do the same for you.

Today, take a walk outside. Look for a symbol in God's creation that can help you remember that God made you to be resilient.

DAY 3

Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock. Isaiah 26:4 NLT

The next time you go outside, find a small rock and hold it in your hand. The thing about rocks is that they have a pretty long lifespan! And while that's a fun fact, it's even better when we think about what the Bible says about God in a similar way. See, the Bible promises us that God is like a rock. God lasts forever—like actually forever! That means God is indestructible, sturdy, trustworthy, and dependable for all of time. God is the one thing we can count on to stay the same no matter what happens in life.

Ask your small group leader how they trust and count on God. Then ask them to pray that you would be able to depend on God in the same real, lasting way.

DAY 4

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:13 NLT

On any given day, our motivation to do all the things we are responsible for can either increase or decrease. Sometimes it increases because of a good mood, getting a good grade, or a great time hanging out with friends. But other times, that motivation decreases when our circumstances feel tough. Whatever the reason, it can be difficult to find the motivation in times like that. The good news is, we can always get a little help from God. When you choose to follow Jesus, God starts working in your life to give you the motivation to keep going and growing in faith no matter what.

Ask God to help you identify the areas in your life that you need a little help to stay motivated. Then, pray for God's help to be resilient enough to keep going.

DAY 5

God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. 1 Corinthians 12:6 NLT

Written by Danielle, age 13, from Burke, Virginia, USA

Have you ever had to wait for something before? Maybe you have once asked a parent for help with your homework, and they tell you they will help you "in a few minutes," but then 30 minutes later, you're still waiting? Or maybe, you had to wait in a long line at the store or for a ride at an amusement park, and the line doesn't seem to be moving forward at all. I know I've been there before! I've felt so impatient when I had to wait. And I've felt even more impatient when the thing I'm waiting on isn't happening! I've wondered, "Why do I have to wait so long for this to happen?" and "Does God even know what I really want?"

God sees what we are waiting on and is always paying attention to what we ask. Even when it seems like nothing changes in your life, remember that God is working in our lives, even when we don't see it, and even when things might not line up with what we want. God does have a plan for

each one of us, even when we may not be able to see it at first.

Today, take a few minutes to pray to God. Tell God the challenges you're facing, and thank God for always listening, even if you can't always see how God is working right away.